

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Mitsuru HORINOE et al.

Application No.: New U.S. Patent Application

Filed: March 26, 2004

Docket No.: 119054

For: DEVELOPING DEVICE AND IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

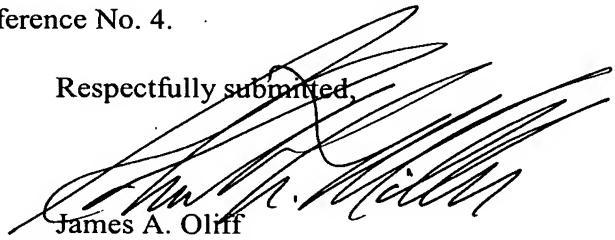
Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference(s) listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- ☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date of this non-CPA application, OR (b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application. No certification or fee is required.
- ☒ 2. Relevance of non-English language reference No. 2 is discussed in the present specification.
- ☒ 3. The present application was filed or entered the U.S. National Stage of the PCT after June 30, 2003. In accordance with the June 11, 2003, Notice waiving the requirements of 37 CFR §1.98(a)(2)(i), copies of any U.S. patents and patent application publications are not attached.
- ☒ 4. English-language Abstracts of non-English language reference Nos. 2-4 and 6-8 are attached hereto.

- ☒ 5. A computer-generated English translation of the following Japanese Patent Publication has been obtained from the website of the Japanese Patent Office (<http://www.jpo.go.jp>), and is attached, but has not been reviewed for accuracy. See References 2-4 and 6-8.
- ☒ 6. Reference No. 1 corresponds to reference No. 4.

Respectfully submitted,



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<p><b>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION</b> Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
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Form PTO-1449 (REV. 8-83)		US Dept. of Commerce PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY DOCKET NO. 119054		APPLICATION NO. New U.S. Patent Application	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANTS Mitsuru HORINOE et al.			
				FILING DATE March 26, 2004			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	
	1	US 6,337,956 B1	1/8/2002	SATO et al.			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	
	2	JP A 9-274423 w/ Abst & Trans	10/21/1997	Japan			
	3	JP A 2001-66861 w/ Abst & Trans	3/16/2001	Japan			
	4	JP A 2000-258986 w/ Abst & Trans	9/22/2000	Japan			
	5	JP Y2 7-50758	11/15/1995	Japan			
	6	JP A 9-160377 w/ Abst & Trans	6/20/1997	Japan			
	7	JP A 11-282235 w/ Abst & Trans	10/15/1999	Japan			
	8	JP A 9-101676 w/ Abst & Trans	4/15/1997	Japan			
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)							
EXAMINER					DATE CONSIDERED		
Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							

Date: March 26, 2004